



Interconnection Rules Suggested Working Group Process

99-DIST-GEN(2)

**California Energy Commission
Siting Committee Workshop
December 6, 1999**

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General Principles that CEC Proposes to Guide Technical Work

1. Rules, protocols, and processes should be clear and transparent.
2. Rules should be technology neutral, except where differential requirements can be fully justified by safety or other legitimate concerns.
3. Rules should apply to all project sponsors on a non-discriminatory basis.
4. Rules should be uniform throughout California, and nationwide if possible.

Proposed Process and Schedule

Today	Identify working groups and explain objectives. Solicit participation in working groups during workshop. Identify issues to be addressed by each working group.
January	Working groups to begin meeting during first week of January.
February	CEC staff to hold all party workshop to evaluate progress of working groups.
Late March	Working groups to formalize recommendations, noting minority opinions, and provide to CEC staff.
Mid-April	CEC staff to issue workshop report.
Late April	Siting Committee to hold a workshop/hearing addressing CEC staff report.
Mid-May	Siting Committee to release draft CPUC recommendation for review.
Early June	Parties to file comments with the CEC on draft report.

Late June CEC to adopt report and transmit to the CPUC.

Interconnection Standards Technical Working Group

Objective: The interconnection technical working group will develop the specific characteristics required by distributed generators to connect to the utility systems. Distinctions between different DG technologies are encouraged so long as the characteristics are standard across all utility service territories, including municipalities and irrigation districts if possible.

Products: A document identifying the specific steps needed to connect to the utility grid.

Issue	Priority	Reference Point for Starting Work
1. Standards classification criteria (size, electrical interface, voltage, location on feeder)		
2. Appropriate time for disconnecting automatic disconnect switches		
3. Feasibility of type testing		
4. Metering and communications requirements (system emergencies, operational dispatch, etc.)		

Interconnection Standards Policy Working Group

Objective: The interconnection policy working group will investigate how interconnection rules ultimately selected by the CPUC might apply to entities not subject to CPUC jurisdiction.

Products: A document with recommendations about non-IOU compliance.

Issue	Priority	Reference Point for Starting Work
1. Role of municipalities and irrigation districts in development and compliance with interconnection standards		
2. Differences and similarities of interconnection requirements for IOUs and non-IOUs		
3. Applicability of new standards to existing installations		
4. ISO jurisdictional issues		
5. Applying IEEE standards to the California process		
6. Responsibility for testing and periodic retesting (Feasibility of self-certification or independent testing)		

Interconnection Standards Implementation Working Group

Objective: The interconnection implementation working group will investigate issues addressing the implementation of rules developed in this proceeding.

Products: Representative interconnection agreements
 Implementation schedule for CPUC and utilities
 Interconnection schedule for distributed generators and utilities

Issue	Priority	Reference Point for Starting Work
1. Coordinating work with IEEE effort		
2. Education and Outreach		
3. Training for UDC personnel		
4. Lead time between adoption and effective date of new requirements		
5. Inspection and testing requirements		
6. Should periodic retesting be required? If so, how often?		
7. Development of standard agreements (contracts)		

Useful Background Materials

1. Texas PUC website for proposed interconnection rules:

www.puc.state.tx.us/rules/rulemake/21220/21220.cfm

2. New York PSC website for interconnection rules adopted in 1999:

www.dps.state.ny.us/distgen.htm

3. PG&E Interconnection Handbook

4. PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E Rule 21 tariff sheets